IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A transmitter comprising means for generating frames of primary digital data and designed for transmitting said frames of primary digital data protected against errors to a receiver via a communication channel, characterized in that the protection method comprises attribution means for attributing a priority level to each of the frames of primary data, and protection means of the FEC type against transmission errors for adding redundancy data packets to the frames of primary data for which a protection is sought, the quantity of the redundancy data being a function of the level of priority of the primary frame under consideration and of the error rate of the communication channel, said protection means delivering said frames of protected data over the communication channel.

2. (Original) A transmitter as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the packets of redundancy data associated with the frames of primary data are more numerous in proportion as the priority level of said frames of primary data is higher and as the error rate of the channel is higher.

3. (AMENDED) A transmitter ~~as claimed in claim 2,~~ comprising means for generating frames of primary digital data and designed for transmitting said frames of primary digital data protected against errors to a receiver via a communication channel, characterized in that the protection method comprises attribution means for attributing a priority level to each of the frames of primary data, and protection means of the FEC type against transmission errors for adding redundancy data packets to the frames of primary data for which a protection is sought, the quantity of the redundancy data being a function of the level of

<u>priority of the primary frame under consideration and of the</u>
<u>error rate of the communication channel, said protection means</u>
<u>delivering said frames of protected data over the communication</u>
<u>channel, ~~characterized in that~~wherein</u> the assignment of a level
of priority to each of the frames of primary data is made in two
stages, first by means of an identification of the type of data
contained in each of the frames of primary data, and subsequently
by relating said type of data to a priority level by means of a
correspondence table stored in a memory.

4. (Original) A transmitter as claimed in claim 3, characterized
in that it comprises control means for ensuring that the data
rate of the frames of protected primary digital data sent over
the communication channel does not exceed the maximum passband of
said communication channel by acting on said means for generating
frames of primary digital data.

5. (Original) A transmitter as claimed in claim 4, characterized
in that said means for generating frames of primary digital data
deliver a single flow of primary data of which the data rate is
controlled by said control means.

6. (Original) A transmitter as claimed in claim 5, characterized
in that said control means prevent the transmission of certain
frames of primary data, especially of those whose priority level
is low.

7. (Original) A transmitter as claimed in claim 6, characterized
in that said means for generating frames of primary digital data
deliver several synchronous primary data flows each having a
different data rate, said control means selecting from these
different flows those frames of primary data which are to be
protected against transmission errors.

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8. (Original) A telephone device comprising a transmitter as claimed in claim 1.

9. (Original) A method of transmitting data, comprising a step of generating frames of primary digital data for the purpose of transmitting said frames of primary digital data protected against errors to a receiver via a communication channel, characterized in that the method further comprises:
- a step of attributing a level of priority to each of the frames of primary data,
- a protection step of the FEC type against transmission errors, adding packets of redundancy data to those frames of primary data for which a protection is envisaged, the quantity of the redundancy data being a function of the level of priority of the primary frame under consideration and of the error rate of the communication channel,
said protection step supplying said data frames protected to the communication channel.

10. (Original) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the packets of redundancy data associated with the frames of primary data are more numerous in proportion as the priority level of said frames of primary data is higher and as the error rate of the channel is higher.

11. (AMENDED) A method of transmitting data ~~as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that~~, comprising a step of generating frames of primary digital data for the purpose of transmitting said frames of primary digital data protected against errors to a receiver via a communication channel, characterized in that the method further comprises:

- a step of attributing a level of priority to each of the
  frames of primary data,
- a protection step of the FEC type against transmission errors,
  adding packets of redundancy data to those frames of primary
  data for which a protection is envisaged, the quantity of the
  redundancy data being a function of the level of priority of
  the primary frame under consideration and of the error rate of
  the communication channel,
said protection step supplying said data frames protected to the
communication channel
          wherein the assignment of a level of priority to each
of the frames of primary data is made by means of a first step of
identifying the type of data contained in each of the frames of
primary data, and subsequently by means of a step which relates
said type of data to a priority level.

12. (Original) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim
11, characterized in that it comprises a control step for
ensuring that the data rate of the frames of protected primary
digital data sent over the communication channel does not exceed
the maximum passband of said communication channel, by acting on
said means for generating frames of primary digital data.

13. (Original) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim
12, characterized in that said step of generating frames of
primary digital data enables the delivery of a single flow of
primary data of which the data rate is controlled by said control
means.

14. (Original) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim
13, characterized in that said control step prevents the
transmission of certain frames of primary data, especially of
those whose priority level is low.

15. (Original) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that that said step of generating frames of primary digital data enables the delivery of several synchronous primary data flows each having a different data rate, said control step selecting from these different flows those frames of primary data which are to be protected against transmission errors.

16. (Original) A computer program product for a transmitter, comprising means for generating frames of primary digital data for the transmission of these primary digital data protected against transmission errors to a receiver via a communication channel, said computer program comprising a series of instructions in program code for carrying out the steps of the method as claimed in claims 9 to 15 when said program is executed by a signal processor incorporated in said transmitter.